

SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA PLANTS
IX. TENSAS PARISH

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A survey and study of the vascular plants of Tensas Parish, Louisiana was made from November, 1979 through October, 1981 (Briley 1981). During this study specimens of 113 families, 388 genera and 723 species or subspecific taxa were collected or found to be on deposit in other Louisiana herbaria.

Tensas Parish is located along the Mississippi River in northeast Louisiana. It was originally covered with a forest of bottomland hardwoods. Most of the area is now cleared and its mostly clay soils are used to cultivate cotton and soybeans. Because of the uniform, mostly level, topography and mostly clay soils, a rich variety of habitats for plants does not occur in the parish. However, several plants that are rare in northeast Louisiana were found.

Tridens albescens (Vasey) Woot. and Standl. was collected along the roadside of La. 608 near Winter Quarters Commemorative Area (Briley 2861). This specimen was determined by Charles M. Allen and was not known from Louisiana when his book on the Louisiana grasses was published (Allen 1980). (Dr. Allen's kind help with the determination of the grasses for this and at least twenty other thesis projects is most gratefully acknowledged.) The authors later searched the roadbanks of the area and could find no more specimens.

Several populations of Melanthera hastata Michx. were located in the parish. Although this composite had already been collected in Tensas Parish (Parks 1973), it is rare in Louisiana and is known only from Tensas, Iberia, Rapides, and West Feliciana Parishes.

Other uncommon or rare plants for Tensas Parish include: Arenaria lanuginosa, Ceratophyllum echinatum, Cissus incisa, Conyza bonariensis, Conyza ramosissima, Crotalaria spectabilis, Cyrtomium fortunei, Glyceria arkansana, Hackelia virginiana, Helianthus grosse-serratus, Laportea canadensis, Lathyrus aphaca, Leonotis nepetaefolia, Lithospermum tuberosum, Malachra capitata, Pentodon pentandrus and Scutellaria lateriflora.

Two sandy areas occur in Tensas Parish and several plants included in the parish's flora are known only from these areas of deep sand. Several sandy spots occur between the Mississippi River Levee and the

river. Eragrostis barelieri occurs in this habit and was recently reported new to Louisiana (Allen 1981). One area located between Lake Bruin and the Mississippi River Levee consists of a field with very deep sand. Plants occurring in this sandy area are unusual for Tensas Parish and include: Aristida oligantha, Cenchrus incertus, Cycoloma atriplicifolium, Diodia teres, Facelis retusa, Gnaphalium obtusifolium, Krigia virginica, Linaria texana, Paspalum setaceum, Quercus minima, Smilax auriculata, Sporobolus pyramidatus and Trifolium arvense.

LITERATURE CITED

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